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PRESS RELEASE

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Goat Hunt Closes North of Valdez Arm

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG249 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on October 8 by emergency order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG249 includes areas east of Columbia Glacier, north of Valdez Arm and west of Port Valdez, Shoup Bay and Shoup Glacier.

The last aerial survey conducted found a minimum count of 381 goats in registration permit area RG249. The maximum allowable state harvest is 15 goat units with an additional harvest of 4 goat units for federal subsistence hunters (19 goat units total). Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of the mountain goat population. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the state harvest is currently at 11 billies, 1 nanny, and 1 unrecovered goat totaling 14.5 goat units. Nannies count as 2 goat units, billies count as 1 goat unit, and unrecovered goats count as 1.5 units towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and therefore it is likely that additional goats have been taken and not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG249 in Unit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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